

# Volunteer Civil Guard (Ulster) Bill.

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## MEMORANDUM.

This Bill provides for the creation in certain districts in Ulster of a new force, which shall be in the nature neither of a military force nor a police force. It will be an organisation of citizens of all sections of the community designed to secure the permanent peace and good order of the area in which it is established.

The constitution of the new force is framed with the object of making it acceptable to all sections. It imposes no legal obligations on those who join it and places no one under the command of officers of any sort. The central committee in each district is not a governing body but an advisory body. Proportionate representation on it is secured to all sections comprising the new force, and unanimity is required for its decisions.

The duties of the new force are not compulsory, and freedom is left to the central committee in each district to adapt the scheme to the needs and circumstances of the district. The Local Government Board for Ireland is to frame regulations with regard to the calling out, the disposition, and the general duties of the force. These regulations are to serve as a guide only, and will not be binding on the central committees, the sectional committees, the directors, or the members of the Civil Guard.

# Volunteer Civil Guard (Ulster) Bill.

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## ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

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### Clause.

1. Power of local authorities to establish Civil Guards.
2. Official registration.
3. Qualification for enrolment.
4. Meetings of sections of the Civil Guard.
5. Election of directors by the sections.
6. Power to divide local areas into wards.
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### SCHEDULES.

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B I L L

TO

Provide for the establishment and regulation of a      A.D. 1909.  
Volunteer Civil Guard in Ulster.

**B**E it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 5      1. On and after the coming into operation of this Act it shall be lawful for any council of a county borough or urban district, or for any town commissioners (hereinafter called a local authority) in Ulster to establish within its local area a volunteer Civil Guard (hereinafter called a Civil Guard). Power of local authorities to establish Civil Guards.
- 10      2. On the adoption by the local authority of a resolution deciding to put this Act into operation, the clerk to the local authority shall cause to be opened an official register in which shall be inscribed the names and addresses of all persons enrolled as members of the Civil Guard. Such register shall be divided Official registration.
- 15      into sections A, B, and so on, as may be necessary, and persons of different religious denominations shall not be entitled to have their names entered in the same section.
- 20      3. Subject to the provision of section nine of this Act, every male person apparently over the age of twenty-one and resident within a local area for at least twelve months previously shall, on signing in the presence of the person in charge of the register the declaration set out in the First Schedule to this Act, be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Civil Guard in such area, and to receive from the person in charge of the register a
- 25      certificate and badge of membership. Qualification for enrolment.

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Meetings of  
section of  
the Civil  
Guard.

4. Within not less than one month and not more than three months after the opening of the register the clerk to the local authority shall cause to be held separately a meeting, or if necessary for convenience, meetings of each section of the Civil Guard, and at such meeting, or meetings, at which the clerk to the local authority (or some member of the section appointed by him) shall preside, the members of each section shall elect directors for the section to which they belong. 5

Election of  
directors by  
the sections.

5.—(1) The number of directors to be elected by each section shall be determined by the total number of the members of the Civil Guard on the register one month after the opening of the same. 10

(2) Where such total exceeds two thousand the number of directors shall be twenty, and each section shall elect its proportionate number of such directors. 15

(3) Where such total exceeds one thousand but does not exceed two thousand there shall be elected one director for every one hundred members of a section.

(4) Where such total exceeds five hundred but does not exceed one thousand there shall be elected one director for every 20 fifty members of a section.

(5) Where such total exceeds one hundred and twenty-five but does not exceed five hundred there shall be elected one director for every twenty-five members of a section.

(6) Where such total exceeds fifty but does not exceed one hundred and twenty-five there shall be elected one director for every ten members of a section.

(7) Where such total does not exceed fifty this Act shall be inoperative.

Power to  
divide local  
areas into  
wards.

6. Where the population of a local area exceeds thirty thousand the local authority may if it deem fit, provided the said area is divided into wards, cause to be opened a separate official register for any ward or any group of wards, and each such ward or group of wards shall be deemed to be a local area for the purpose of and within the meaning of this Act. 35

Committees  
of direction  
and sectional  
committees.

7.—(1) In each local area there shall be—

- (a) separate committees for each section of the Civil Guard comprising the directors of each section, and such committees shall be called sectional committees;

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(b) A central committee comprising all the directors of the Civil Guard, called a committee of direction.

(2) The powers and duties of a committee of direction and of the sectional committees shall be such powers and duties as are set out in the Second Schedule to this Act.

(3) Unless where otherwise specified in the Second Schedule to this Act no resolution, act, regulation, or decision of a committee of direction shall be the resolution, act, regulation, or decision of such committee unless passed by the unanimous vote of all the directors present and voting at a duly convened meeting of such committee of direction.

8. It shall be the duty of—

Duties of local authorities, police, Civil Guard, and Local Government Board for Ireland.

(1) the local authority whenever it considers it desirable in the interests of the peace and good order of its local area to do so to call out the Civil Guard, and to specify the time during which the Civil Guard shall be on duty;

(2) the police authorities within a local area to advise the local authority to call out the Civil Guard, whenever it appears to the police authorities that such a course is desirable;

(3) the lord mayor, mayor, or chairman of a local authority in case of emergency and acting on the advice of the police authorities to call out the Civil Guard, if it appears to him that such a course is desirable;

(4) the directors of the Civil Guard to carry out the regulations of their committee of direction;

(5) all members of the Civil Guard to wear their badges when on duty, and to act when on duty under the advice and guidance of their director, who shall be the person appointed by their sectional committee as provided in the Second Schedule to this Act;

(6) the Local Government Board for Ireland to—

(a) frame regulations as to the procedure, election of chairman, &c., of committees of direction and sectional committees;

(b) frame regulations as to the calling out of the Civil Guard, and, subject to the provisions of this Act, as to the powers and duties of the Civil Guard when such has been called out by a local

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authority, such regulations to be for the guidance of committees of direction, but not binding thereon;

(c) design and issue to each local authority adopting this Act the badge to be worn by the 5 Civil Guard when on duty;

(d) make all such other orders, rules, and regulations as, subject to the provisions of this Act, it may deem necessary for the efficient 10 working of the Act.

Applications for enrolment.

9. If the person in charge of an official register has reason to believe that any person applying to be enrolled as a member of the Civil Guard is not a fit and proper person to be so enrolled, the person applying shall not be enrolled until his application shall have been considered and approved by the sectional committee of the section in which he has applied to be enrolled. 15

Penalties.

10.—(1) No member of the Civil Guard shall wear his badge except when on duty, and no person not being a member of the Civil Guard shall be entitled to wear such badge.

(2) Any person contravening this section shall be liable on 20 summary conviction to a fine not exceeding *twenty shillings* for each conviction.

(3) Save and except as in this section provided, no member of the Civil Guard shall be liable to any punishment for contravening the provisions of this Act, or for failing to discharge any 25 duty imposed by this Act, or for failing to observe any order, rule, or regulation made under this Act, provided always that each sectional committee shall have power, where it sees fit, to order to be struck off the official register the name of any person entered as a member in its own section on such register, and 30 thereupon such person shall cease to be a member of the Civil Guard.

Expenses.

11. The local authority shall defray the cost of the official register and of the certificates and badges, as well as the cost of printing any notices, &c., which it considers necessary under this Act, and shall provide without charge accommodation for the meetings of the committee of direction, the sectional committees, and the meetings necessary for the election of directors.

Short title and commencement.

12. This Act may be cited as the Volunteer Civil Guard (*Ulster*) Act, 1909, and shall come into operation on the *first* 40 *day of January nineteen hundred and eleven*.

## SCHEDULES.

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### FIRST SCHEDULE.

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#### DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED ON ENROLMENT AS MEMBER OF THE CIVIL GUARD.

5 I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby  
declare that as a member of the volunteer Civil Guard of Ulster I will  
use my best efforts at all times for the preservation of the peace and  
good order of this district and particularly at such times as from any  
cause the peace and good order of this district are endangered.

10 (Signed)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### SECOND SCHEDULE.

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#### POWERS AND DUTIES OF SECTIONAL COMMITTEES.

15 (1) Each committee shall divide the members of its section into as  
many divisions as there are directors for such section, and shall appoint  
one director for every such division.

(2) Where the total number of members of a section increases so as  
to entitle that section to an additional director or directors, such  
additional director or directors shall be appointed by the committee.

20 (3) Where the total number of members of a section decreases so  
that the number of directors is in excess of the number provided for  
under clause 5 of the Act, the number of directors shall be propor-  
tionately reduced, and the director or directors whose divisions show  
the largest decrease shall be the director or directors to cease to hold  
25 office in consequence thereof.

(4) Vacancies on the sectional committees through death, resig-  
nation or other cause shall be filled by co-option.

30 (5) Each committee shall in addition to its powers under clause 10  
subsection (3) of the Act have such powers and discharge such duties as  
may be allotted to it by the committee of direction.

#### POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES OF DIRECTION.

(1) The powers and duties of each committee shall be to frame  
such regulations for the directors and, generally, for the Civil Guard  
within its local area as shall seem to it calculated to make the Civil  
35 Guard, when called on duty by the local authority, efficient to serve in  
preserving peace and good order within the area.

# Volunteer Civil Guard (Ulster).

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## B I L L

To provide for the establishment and  
regulation of a Volunteer Civil  
Guard in Ulster.



*Presented by Mr. Hasleton,  
supported by  
Mr. Sloan and Mr. Glendinning.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
6 September 1909.*

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